

**Department of Transportation  
State Project No. 120-92  
Safety Improvements on Route 85 from Shady Brook  
Picnic Area to Skyline Drive  
Town of Salem**

**Public Informational Meeting  
March 30, 2016 - 7:00 p.m.  
Salem Town Hall  
270 Hartford Road**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Representatives Present:**

Connecticut Department of Transportation:

William Britnell, P.E., Principal Engineer – Division of Highway Design  
Scott Bushee, P.E., Project Manager – Division of Highway Design  
Byong Kim, Project Engineer – Division of Highway Design  
Andrew Esposito, Design Engineer – Division of Highway Design  
Michael Marzi – Office of Right of Way  
Michael Washington – District 2 Construction  
Mark Elliott – District 2 Construction

Town of Salem:

Kevin Lyden – First Selectman

Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments:

Ned Connell – Senior Planner

**Presentation:** Following a brief introduction by Mr. Kevin Lyden, Mr. Scott Bushee and Mr. Byong Kim gave a 20-minute PowerPoint presentation on the project. In addition, Mr. Michael Marzi discussed the rights-of-way process.

The presentation covered the following items:

- ⇒ The project location and purpose of the project was described. There are narrow shoulders on Route 85 near the Garden Center; there is also queuing and rear end crashes occurring on this portion of Route 85. Near Skyline Drive, Route 85 has an embankment close to the edge of road, narrow shoulders, and limited drainage.
- ⇒ Proposed improvements for Route 85 near the Garden Center include widening the road to provide 5-foot shoulders on the northbound side of Route 85 and an 8-foot shoulder on the southbound side of Route 85. The 8-foot shoulder allows vehicle bypass capability, which will improve safety and reduce traffic congestion near the Garden Center.

- ⇒ Proposed improvements on the horizontal curve near Skyline Drive include improved sightlines, wider shoulders/travel lanes, improved drainage, and improved superelevation.
- ⇒ The portion of Route 85 between the Garden Center and the curve near Skyline Drive will be milled and overlaid as part of the project.
- ⇒ There will be some slope and construction easements required.
- ⇒ Traffic will be maintained during construction with alternating one-way traffic needed at times.
- ⇒ Milling and Paving is planned to be done at night.
- ⇒ The project is scheduled to begin in summer 2017, and completed in fall 2017.

**Public Comments and Questions:** Approximately 20 residents and public officials attended, many of which had comments and questions after the presentation. The comments/questions are summarized below:

1. *A resident asked how vulnerable the project funding was.* There are no foreseeable issues that would cause the project to lose its funding.
2. *The construction timing and sequence was brought up twice during the Q&A portion of the meeting.* It was explained that the construction will start in the summer of 2017, and with a good contractor and cooperation from utility companies, be completed by November 2017.
3. *A resident asked what type of shoulder striping was being proposed in the area that would allow bypass capability, and said that if it were a solid white line, then crossing that line would be an illegal maneuver.* It was stated that providing the bypass capability with normal shoulder striping is common practice and that this would not be deemed an illegal maneuver.
4. *A resident asked if there were plans to close any of the three driveways to the Garden Center, believing that it was too confusing.* There is no work being proposed for the Garden Center driveways; the Garden Center has two driveways, which is typical of a shopping center this size. The third driveway is for the Landscaping Business adjacent to the Garden Center.
5. *A resident stated that the speed limit should be addressed. This resident believed that because of the increased sight lines, drivers would accelerate.* It was explained that drivers will tend to drive consistently throughout a corridor; and it is believed they will not accelerate in the areas this project is addressing just because they can see further. The length of safety improvements along the curve by Skyline Drive on Route 85 is relatively short, approximately 900 feet.
6. *A few residents that live on the east side of Route 85 near Skyline Drive were concerned about the erosion they are experiencing in their yards and asked how far along the drainage design was.* It was explained that at this point in the project, the drainage has not been designed. However, it was stated that because of the curve, the roadway would be superelevated in front of their properties, which will divert a significant amount of run-off from the east side of Route 85.

Overall, the project received positive feedback and support; the majority agreed that the proposed improvements would increase safety on this portion of Route 85. The Department representatives continued to speak with residents informally until approximately 8:00 p.m.